

Message Text

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EUR/CE:DANDERSON

EUR/SOV:RBARRY

C:R HOPPER

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 193366

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, US, UK, FR, UR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS
ON QA ANNIVERSARY

REF: STATE 190413; BONN 12871; STATE 185023; BONN 13009

1. RE BONN 13009, DEPT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT
SUBSTANTIVE TEXTS TO BE EXCHANGED SHOULD BE IDENTICAL.
WE CONCUR WITH FRENCH VIEW THAT CONTACT WITH THE SOVIETS
SHOULD BE LIMITED TO COORDINATION OF TEXTS, AND SHOULD
NOT GO INTO DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION OF QA. WE ALSO

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CONCUR IN FRENCH DESIRE THAT TELEGRAMS OF GREETING

WOULD BE SENT BY ALL FOUR POWERS TO ALL FOUR POWERS.

2. DEPT BELIEVES US TEXT (PARA 9, BONN 13009) IS PREFERABLE TO UK TEXT (PARA 10, BONN 13009). PRESUMABLY THE US VERSION WOULD BE EASIER TO SELL TO THE SOVIETS SINCE IT MORE CLOSELY PARALLELS THEIR SUGGESTION (PARA 1, STATE 190413). THE US TEXT ALSO RETAINS THE DESIRABLE LANGUAGE "STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION" CONTAINED IN THE SOVIET VERSION.

3. DEPT DISAGREES WITH UK IDEA TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH PROPOSED TEXT ONLY AT RELATIVELY LATE MOMENT. IN OUR VIEW, THIS APPROACH COULD LEAD TO UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. DEPT ENVISAGES SCENARIO UNDER WHICH ALLIES WOULD (A) INFORM SOVIETS THAT THE ALLIES ARE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE TELEGRAMS PROVIDED A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TEXT CAN BE AGREED UPON; (B) TELL SOVIETS THAT THEIR SUGGESTION FORMS A USEFUL BASIS FOR A TEXT, ON WHICH THE ALLIES ARE PRESENTLY CONSULTING; (C) PRESENT A TEXT TO SOVIETS AS SOON AS THE ALLIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT.

4. POINTS (A) AND (B) WOULD PERHAPS BEST BE MADE BILATERALLY BY EACH OF THE THREE ALLIES. IF NOT PRECLUDED BY FRENCH SENSITIVITIES, US AS ALLIED CHAIRMAN IN AUGUST WOULD BE PREPARED TO SERVE AS ALLIED SPOKESMAN IN COORDINATING ACTUAL TEXT WITH SOVIETS. IF NOT DONE BY US, WE BELIEVE SEPARATE BILATERAL APPROACHES, PERHAPS AT WORKING LEVEL IN MOSCOW, WOULD MINIMIZE DANGER OF GETTING INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF THE QA WITH THE SOVIET SIDE. HABIB

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